RED VOX LORE BOOK

MAJOR EVENTS TIMELINE

JULY 10, 2020 - Realign Released / Pale Blue Dot MV Released
JULY 9, 2020 - Be Someone Forever Single Released
JUNE 25, 2020 - Realign Single Released
FEBRUARY 21, 2020 - Ozymandias Single Released
OCTOBER 31, 2019 - Why Can't This Be Easy Released
JANUARY 18, 2019 - Kerosene Released
OCTOBER 4, 2018 - Stranded Released
DECEMBER 14, 2017 - Another Light Released
JULY 2, 2017 - Reno Released
MARCH 16, 2017 - In The Garden Single Released
JANUARY 10, 2017 - From The Stars Single Released
SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 - Blood Bagel Released
MAY 23, 2016 - WCGW Posted on Vinesauce
MARCH 29, 2016 - WCGW Released
JANUARY 19, 2016 - Atom Bomb Single Released
AUGUST 25, 2015 - Back To School Single Released
JULY 18, 2015 - Hazy Single Released
MAY 19, 2015 - There She Goes Single Released

MDIRT (AUTHOR)

I remember checking out “What Could Go Wrong” around its release and growing to love it. Red Vox’s ever improving and evolving sound keeps me coming back, and the music has been a companion through many periods of my life.

FAVORITE SONGS: STRANDED, FAR AWAY, DEFINE ME

ECHOES (CO-AUTHOR)

What I love about Red Vox is their sound. Their songs are so thoughtful and catchy, and they’ve stayed with me even in my worst days. They’re my favorite band, no doubt.

FAVORITE SONGS: MEMENTO MORI, FROM THE STARS, BE SOMEONE FOREVER

HENBAYNE (EDITOR AND ARTIST)

I gotta say it’s really cool to be able to work on something so big for a band I really love, They’ve been there for a few big parts of my life recently and I’d have no idea where I would be without it.

FAVORITE SONGS: WHY CAN’T THIS BE EASY, THE REASON THIS IS HAPPENING, STRANDED, RENO

IMPORTANT NOTES

- This “lore book” came about because I realized Vinny and Mike often mention pretty cool things about Red Vox on stream, which would otherwise be lost to the aether if nobody wrote them down. So that’s why this stuff has been compiled. - MDIRT
- All following dates are in American format, and images without a yellow text colored source (including our authors icons) are hyperlinks. - HENBAYNE
- The last time this was added on to was on 10/10/20. - HENBAYNE
- Thank you to everyone in the discord! I couldn’t of done this without your help and feedback <3. - HENBAYNE
- This is the 1st edition of this book before LP5. - HENBAYNE

WHAT COULD GO WRONG

After a nearly five year break from music to focus on Vinesauce, Vinny's rekindled passion for music making lead him and his former Davy's Grey bandmate Mike to pick up their instruments once again. Their musical endeavor gained newfound direction when Bill, someone Vinny had played guitar for in the past, connected them to Joe and his Staten Island based recording studio Red Room Studio. Vinny's songwriting was brought to reality by Joe's production, with the group's sound being further rounded out by Mike's drumming and Bill's keyboard playing. Borrowing from a wide variety of rock influences, their debut album What Could Go Wrong marked the beginnings of a distinctive Red Vox style, both sonically and lyrically. Following a year of difficult recording work, and thousands of dollars, the album released on March 29th, 2016.

(c. 2007) High Quality Davy's Grey Jam

"Some vintage footage of my first band, Davy's Grey! Sorry for the terrible sound quality... These were the moments that helped forge my love for playing bass and creating songs. Special thanks to my brothers Vinny and Mike, love you guys!"

> Source (YouTube)

(12/21/15) Primary Recording for WCGW is Finished

"Vocals, guitar, bass, and drums are now finished. Now we mix and maybe add a keyboard or two here or there"

> Source (Twitter)

(1/25/16) WCGW Pedalboard

(3/29/16) Message Included with WCGW

What Could Go Wrong was "recorded during most of 2015 into early 2016", and in the description of the Trolls and Goblins music video, a message was included. Interesting tidbits: Red Vox was created after a nearly 5 year break from music, and the first album cost thousands of dollars.

> Source (Reddit)

(4/2/16) Red Vox Name Origin

The name "Red Vox" came from a dream.

> Source (Twitter)

(4/8/16) Early Version of "From The Stars" Solo

An early version of "From The Stars" can be seen being played by Joe as early as April 2016

> Source (Twitter)

(6/21/16) First Red Vox AMA

> Source for all following info (Reddit)

The Atom Bomb Folder and Reno: Atom Bomb has been in the works since at least 2012, and was once the tentative name of Vinny and Mike's two-piece band. "Reno" was also conceived around this era.

"Wow good eye. The song atom bomb was originally something I came up with keybaord [sic]. It only became "Atom Bomb" after I brought the idea to Mike and played it on a plugged in guitar. I tend to mangle my way through odd lyrics until the sounds become words. Anyway, that folder contained like 25 ideas from the Davy's Grey days. Some ideas were whole songs, some incomplete, some only riffs. I named it Atom Bomb as that the initial name of me and Mike's new two-piece project. We weren't sure if Atom Bomb would be the band name or the album name, but we liked it for quite a while. That folder still exists btw, and we're doing a song from it for our next album. Totally reworking it, but the core idea is strong and we like it a lot. It's called Heading on Back to Reno"

The Band's Favorite Albums

VINNY: "Led Zeppelin - Physical Graffiti, Pink Floyd - The Wall, The Beatles - Revolver, Pixies - Doolittle. Also, lately a ton of Pet Sounds by The Beach Boys."

MIKE: "The Who - Quadrophenia, Pink Floyd - Dark Side of the Moon. Those are the two that immediately come to mind. Also Billy Joel - The Stranger."

JOE: "The favorites thing is impossible, but an underrated favorite of mine is Congratulations by MGMT. Also Jesus Hits Like The Atom Bomb by Tripping Daisy."

Joe and Vin's Fav Guitar Brands

JOE: "It doesn't matter too much, but mostly Fender."

VINNY: "Fender, but also Rickenbacker obviously. I also really love my Ibanez bass."

WCGW Inspirations

"There She Goes was inspired by the Cars. Atom Bomb was kind of a mash between Tame Impala and Nirvana. Job in the City is very inspired by Talking Heads. Ghost Page has a bit of Sabbath in there. We wear our influences on our sleeve for better or worse."

Average Recording Time for a Song

"About 2 to 3 for recording, then another 3 or 4 for mixing, Each session is 4 hours. It can take some time, but it depends on the song to be honest. There's a song we recorded recently that took 6 recording sessions."

On Tame Impala Being A Push To Start the Band

"Tame Impala was a huge push for us to start this band. I really love their work and am happy people are responding so well to it on a massive scale. The song Atom Bomb has some shades of Impala in there and we would love to explore those sounds more in the future."

WCGW Nearly Reaching Billboard's Top 200 Sales Chart

"...I don't think we expected as many people to buy it, but I knew a lot of Vinesauce people would at least give it a shot. Having that initial audience really pushed us to work hard in the studio and still does. I was, however, completely shocked when Billboard emailed me and claimed we nearly hit the top 200 sales chart. Obviously the bar is quite a bit lower these days than it was say 20 years ago, but that was still really cool to see..."

Possible Genre Experimentations

MIKE: "Pop."

VINNY: "I want to try more electronic sounds and Hip-Hop backbeats. I also want to try funk at some point."

WCGW's Original Name and Ghost Page's Original Meaning

MIKE: "The Wrong Side of History was hard to prepare for and record. It also had a different name for a long time, Act This Way. Also Ghost Page was originally about a Final Fantasy VI boss, but I prevented that from happening because I'm a genius and Vinny is a hack fraud."

VINNY: "I like when Saban [sic] suplexed the train."

Age of WCGW/Blood Bagel Songs

"Trolls and Goblins and Long Lonely Night are both about 10 years old. For Blood Bagel we've revisited a few songs that are maybe 6 years old or so and reworked them totally. The next real album will be mostly new material but with maybe one or two older ideas updated."

How Vinny and Joe Met

VINNY: "I met Joe at a show Billy did ages ago, but we never really spoke in depth for a long time. March of 2015 was the first time we really got to know each other."

(9/14/16) KEITH WOLFMUX AND LILITH OYA

Keith Wolfmux and Lilith Oya were the special effects/makeup artists who “clowned” Vinny and Mike for the Blood Bagel photoshoot.

> SOURCE 1 (TWITTER)

> SOURCE 2 (TWITTER)

KEITH WOLFMUX - LILITH OYA

(9/14/16) ARNELLE ON “BETWEEN THE CHEEKS”

Arnelle of PINKVISION contributed her voice for track 5 of Blood Bagel, “Between the Cheeks”.

> SOURCE (TWITTER)

(9/15/16) AGE OF BLOOD BAGEL

On the bandcamp release for Blood Bagel, it says “Special thanks to Phil B for witnessing the real Blood Bagel and playing some of these songs with us back in the day.” This implies that some of the Blood Bagel songs date back several years.

> SOURCE (BANDCAMP)

(9/15/16) ROID RAGE VOCALS

Vinny explained that he had recovered from laryngitis before recording the vocals for Roid Rage, which contributed to him stylistically “sounding extra shitty”.

> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)

ANOTHER LIGHT

Another Light, the follow up to Red Vox's first album, marked a major step forward in their sound. As perhaps the first album to feature the equal contributions of all four band members, Another Light offers a cohesive style that can be uniquely placed as Red Vox's own. Its thirteen tracks draw from a varied background of alternative rock inspirations, but the result is no mere pastiche. An intensive production process characterized the nearly two years between the band's first and second albums, even leading to the delay of Another Light's release for several months to record Memories Lie. Ten months following Another Light's initial premiere, the album's bonus track Stranded was released. Considered by many to be the essential Red Vox album, Another Light represents a pivotal point in the band's history.

(12/4/16) ANOTHER LIGHT PROGRESS

It's noted in the second Heavy Magazine interview that 2 songs for Another Light had already been mostly recorded by mid-2016. By December of the same year, 9 songs had been written for Red Vox's second LP.

> INTERVIEW

> SOURCE (TWITTER)

(4/17/17) FIRST VIDEO TEASER FOR "MEMENTO MORI"

A teaser of Memento Mori was posted in April of 2017, where the line "But it's just so far away" can be heard.

> SOURCE (TWITTER)

(JUNE '17) ANOTHER LIGHT DELAYED

Around June, it was announced that Another Light had been delayed (from the top comment of In the Garden) to record what would become Memories Lie. It had been written about a month prior.

> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)

(8/18/17) FIRST HEAVY MAGAZINE INTERVIEW

A few months before the release of Another Light, Vinny did an interview with Heavy Magazine about Vinesauce and Red Vox. Of note is the fact that "Fuck" was the first song recorded for Blood Bagel. Vinny also mentions that there is a core concept that shows up in every song from Another Light.

> SOURCE (HEAVY MAGAZINE)

(1/19/18) SECOND HEAVY MAGAZINE INTERVIEW

Following the release of Another Light, Vinny did another interview with the same Heavy Magazine writer. He talks about the variety of styles on Another Light, from the QOTSA-inspired Reno to the more Radiohead sounding Burn a Picture. In particular, A Moon Shaped Pool shaped the headspace for several of the songs.

It's mentioned here that Burn a Picture uses the guitar and bassline from Vinny's original demo, as they couldn't replicate the feel in the studio. Vinny says that melodically, Memories Lie might be his favourite. In continuation of a recurring theme for Red Vox, many aspects of the song From The Stars came directly from a dream Vinny had. In The Garden

was originally a guitar driven song, but under the suggestion of Joe, was reworked with synthesizers.

Some of the history of Red Vox is covered here as well. Davy's Grey broke apart in 2009 and a 5-year period of little musical activity ensued for Vinny. Itching to get back to music, Vinny began to jam again with Mike starting in 2015. Having met him through their mutual friend Bill, Vinny eventually approached Joe to record the songs that had been developing. There She Goes became their first studio recorded song during an April 2015 session. Bill was contacted for a couple keyboard parts later on, and by late 2015, Red Vox had cemented itself as a serious endeavor.

(1/29/18) DAVE CAHILL AND "TELL ME"

Dave Cahill, friend of Vinny and Mike, wrote the opening guitar melody of Tell Me.

> SOURCE (TWITTER)

DAVE CAHILL

(5/11/18) FIRST VIDEO TEASER OF STRANDED

Vinny can be seen playing the guitar solo for Stranded in this Twitter post, 5 months before it actually released.

> SOURCE (TWITTER)

(10/4/18) "STRANDED" RELEASE INFO AND FIRST VINYL ANNOUNCEMENT

Stranded was released on October 4th, 2018 with the following blurb, "Here's something I posted elsewhere: "Glad you like it! As I said last night, this song kind of caps off an era/sound of Red Vox for now. It's the culmination of everything we learned from Another Light and is directly related to that album. Going forward we're going to be trying new things, both stripped down and more synth heavy. It's just kind of the natural course for me and the other guys to want to evolve and try different stuff. I'm glad everyone enjoyed this, but don't expect a Wish You Were Here or Animals from us in the near future. :)"

Alongside Stranded's release, Another Light became Red Vox's first release on vinyl. It came with the Another Light demos.

> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)

> SOURCE (TWITTER)

KEROSENE

Worn out from the recording process for Another Light, Red Vox welcomed the simplicity of trying a few acoustic songs. In the months following Stranded, Kerosene was conceived as a short acoustic EP, but soon grew to the size of a brisk full album. Kerosene's comparatively stripped back tracks nonetheless sound atmospheric and lay close to the heart. Its ten songs represent some of the most personal lyrics put to paper by Vinny thus far. A quiet release, Kerosene was put out by surprise with little to no announcement.

(8/2/18) FIRST "WHY CAN'T THIS BE EASY" CLIP SHOWN

During an art segment, Vinny casually teased the first few seconds of an early demo of the song.

> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)

(1/8/19) KEROSENE RELEASE BLURB

Kerosene's YouTube release included this short blurb on the album, "This isn't exactly our big follow-up to Another Light. It started as a 5 or 6 song acoustic EP to record after Stranded and ended up getting a lot more involved than that. After growing to 10 songs we realized it was no longer an EP and no longer just acoustic. Most of these songs are brand new but some have been with me since the beginning of Another Light. It's not a happy album, but it all comes from a real place. I hope you enjoy it as we get started recording our proper next album. Thanks for sticking with us. -Vinny"

> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)

(1/15/19) SECOND RED VOX AMA

> SOURCE FOR ALL FOLLOWING INFO (REDDIT)

Getting Loose for "Reno" and "Job In The City"

It's a somewhat well known piece of trivia that Vinny had to get drunk to nail the vocals on "Reno." A similar preparation was necessary for "Job In The City". "The only other one I remember was Job In The City. I needed to get loose for that, but nothing was working, except whiskey. I may have had a drink or two during Blood Bagel, just like I need a drink or two to listen to it these days (half-joking)."

On the Sound of LP4 (Realign)

When asked on what to expect from the next album, Vinny said "It's always hard to say because you start with one idea in mind and then things just take their own shape. That said, there's an old Radiohead adage about how the last song on each of their albums was a small glimpse into what the next one would sound like. We seem to be following a similar trend. Expect some synthesizers."

How Work Is Divided Between Members

"Work is divided per song. For most stuff I do the singing, rhythm

guitar, some lead guitar and some synth stuff. Mike does percussion and sometimes writes lyrics with me. Joe plays most of the bass parts (except like 4 songs on Another Light, where I played them at home and brought them in). Joe is also an amazing guitarist, better than me, so he does solos on a bunch of songs, like Back To School, From The Stars, Settle For Less and most stuff on Blood Bagel. Bill plays piano like a fucking pro, so if we need some flair, we wait for him to come in and lay it down. I can play simple leads and padding, but Bill can make play complex stuff. When we're jamming, we all play together and just see what happens, sometimes switching instruments. And obviously Joe does all the mixing and production."

Vinny's Favorite Kerosene Tracks

"Hard choice, but maybe Never Gonna Win. Also the song Kerosene itself. This was a lyrics heavy album and I feel like I got some good inspiration with that song and I'm happy with how it came out."

Why Reno?

On why he chose to write a song about Reno, Vinny said "I wouldn't even know how to answer that. It was a song from the Davy's Grey days that was modified heavily for Red Vox. All that really remained was the chorus of "headin on back to Reno." Again, no idea why. Maybe the chords made me think of the desert? That plus I've always liked songs about places. Glad to represent your city despite me never having visited."

Kerosene's Inspirations

"Radiohead, Lead Zeppelin III, Beck's acoustic stuff, Nirvana Unplugged in New York, Alice in Chains.. the list goes on. I like when a band can slow down a bit and release some stripped down songs."

On Making the Ending of "Memories Lie"

"That song was a bit of a process, but it was worth it. My vocals weren't cutting it for that part and so I took inspiration from Pond and asked Joe to throw a vocoder on my voice. After searching for a bit, he arrived at that particular sound, and it sounded perfect. I'm glad we pulled it off because I wasn't so sure about that one at first."

On Writing Kerosene

In many ways, Kerosene was a solo effort by Vinny, aided by Joe's production and engineering.

"Kerosene was considered as a solo thing, but what does that even mean anymore? The other guys helped me out to varying degrees and the line is getting blurrier between a solo thing and a Red Vox thing. I'll be the first to almost shamefully admit that my hands are very much on the wheel of the band. It's something I try to be very careful about, but it's just how it is. The other guys are invaluable though, which is why I wanted them to help me with Kerosene. Ultimately, even though Kerosene is the most me-centric of our albums, everyone did stuff and it still sounded like a Red Vox album (stripped down of course), so it was decreed one."

"But seriously, many of those songs weren't written with happy thoughts in mind. Personal bullshit aside, the world isn't exactly a gleeful place at the moment and people are at each other's throats in awful and disgusting ways. I wrote about that from the most neutral, detached viewpoint I could on several of the songs."

In addition to being a lyrics focused, acoustic album, Kerosene is notable for being perhaps the most personal Red Vox release.

"...pretty much all of Kerosene in deeply personal to me in some way or another. I used it as a way to get these thoughts out and hopefully put some of them to rest. I knew it would be a risky move to some extent to release it after Another Light and I also knew that people would be asking me if I'm ok, but I still needed to do it. For Kerosene, I really needed to write these lyrics.. it was a compulsion. It was a weird year, not just in my life, but all around me."

Kerosene Timeline and the Quiet Release

Speaking to the silent release of Kerosene, Vinny explained "I didn't want to hype the album like it was a huge followup to Another Light, an album that took about 18 months to finish. In comparison, Kerosene took a little over 6 months. I guess I just wanted people to find it for themselves, be surprised and not have any preconceived notions of what it was. That plus I felt kinda weird hyping such a personal album."

(6/13/19) FIRST VINYL PRESSINGS OF WCGW AND KEROSENE

On June 13th, 2019, WCGW and Kerosene received their first vinyl pressings, in a limited run of 500 each. WCGW was a solid red record, and Kerosene was white with a dark brown coffee stain splatter pattern.

(10/31/19) "WHY CAN'T THIS BE EASY" RELEASE BLURB

The single released with a short blurb by Vinny. "Realign is going to be a pretty varied album covering a lot of different sounds and moods. Only a few of the tracks sound like this, but expecting synthesizers is a safe bet. We're going to aim for an early 2020 release, but it could slip into spring."

> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)

(10/31/19) MIKE ON THE REALIGN RECORDING PROCESS

After the release of the single "Why Can't This Be Easy" on October 31st, Mike talked on-stream about the extent of his involvement in recording Realign. Here is an edited excerpt of what he said: "...I actually had very little to do with that song. In fact, I didn't really have a lot to do with this album in general because recording this album was a very different experience than the previous ones... Like for almost every song we worked on, like Vin — he brought in an almost fully finished song to the studio, that he basically wrote at home, and then he asked us to record very specific things with our instruments. Y'know, as opposed to all three or four of us sitting there together and I guess co-writing everything. And at one point he said something like 'Sorry if I'm being a control freak' like he felt bad about it or whatever, and I just said 'Well, I don't see it that way because if you have a vision then I'm just here to help you make that a reality.'

Like that's it — I'm a drummer, that's what I do... [Realign's] a lot more produced than some of our previous stuff... there's a lot of looping and layering with the instruments and the way I recorded that track was very similar to how we did In The Garden. Which was a song that I kind of see as the precursor to this entire album — like that one song kinda dictated the direction that we were gonna go in for this next album completely...

And the way that I did In The Garden was the way that I did this one, where I recorded two parts separately. One track was the bass and the snare, and the other track was the hi-hat, and they took what I gave them and put electronic triggers on it and looped it. ... So it's a little 'fake' compared to what you'd hear on a traditional rock album but... it's the kinda music we always wanted to make...

There's a part of me that wishes I could've been more creative with my parts, but when I hear how good this shit sounds at the end of everything — I'm more than okay with it, like it's really what the parts needed to sound like. It's pretty typical for the type of music that we're trying to make here."
> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)

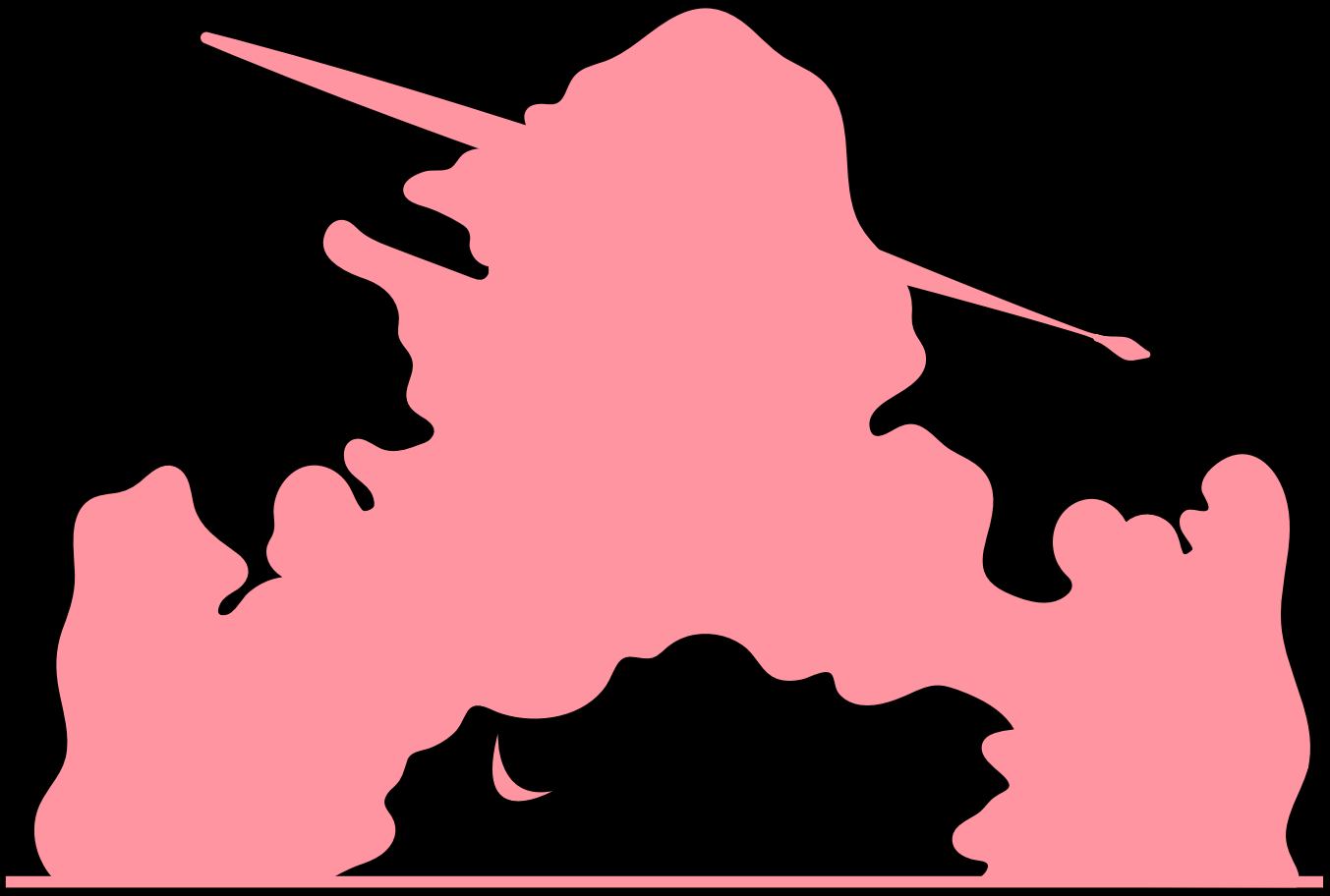
(11/23/19) 25 TO 27 SONGS STOCKPILED

In talking about the period following Another Light and Kerosene, Vinny said "I tend to write... sometimes just accidentally, sometimes I pick up a guitar and try to write something. Most times though, I'd say... maybe 12-15 songs a year happen."

However, Vinny and the band had written some 25-27 songs before the primary recording process for Realign began. "Some of these songs sounded like they were for one album and some of them sounded like they were for another album. Some of which I did demos for at home and played on keyboard... What I'm trying to say is that we actually divided the songs. Realign has one specific style of song and the other songs are much more [guitar-driven], some are kinda heavy, some are kind of like the first album... Another Light a little bit, but more like the first album..."

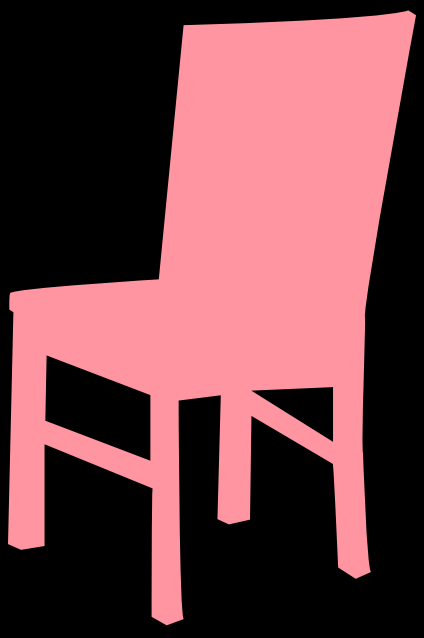
Realign had been more or less set in stone at this point, to which Vinny added "I'm now thinking about the next one, because I'm fucking crazy and I've written a song, maybe within the past three weeks, that would fit really nice on it and it's really heavy... "

Finally, to close out, Vinny mentioned that "some of the best shit we've done in the past five years we had to say no to for Realign... some really cool ones that are being held onto [for the next album]."
> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)



REALIGN

Fulfilling a long standing desire to experiment with a more electronic style, Red Vox pieced together Realign from the synthier offerings of a prolific songwriting period following Stranded. Realign's recording sessions differed from the process for Another Light, in which many songs were co-written closely by the band members. For the majority of Realign, Vinny's vision lead its direction. Outside of a few songs born from jam sessions, Vinny brought most songs to the studio near fully written and completed them with Joe's production expertise. Despite Realign's "studio invention", a dreamy and otherworldly sound pervades each of the album's varied tracks. And as yet another step forward for Red Vox, Realign stands as a testament to the group's musical growth through the past five years.



(5/11/19) REALIGN SONGWRITING PROGRESS

Progress on Realign was going smoothly at this point, with Vinny having wrote the lyrics to three songs almost entirely in one night. He also mentions that in a lot of his songs, there's "some meaning, and some lines are just because they sound good in context."

> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)

(10/24/19) TEASER FOR REALIGN TITLE TRACK (?)

Vinny plays a teaser for what appears to be the Realign title track.

> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)

(2/16/20) LP5 PREVIEW "GRUNGE ALBUM"

This is the first known teaser for the fifth album, which will be hard rock/grunge.

> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)

(2/18/20) "BE SOMEONE FOREVER" PREVIEW

The first teaser for "Be Someone Forever" off of Realign was posted on the Red Vox twitter.

> SOURCE (TWITTER)

(3/10/20) "OZYMANDIAS" INTERVIEW

A few weeks following Ozymandias's release, Highlander News released an article on the single, which included a brief discussion with Vinny. He had this to say, "It's about the temporary nature of both the material form and power in general. Ozymandias had a great kingdom, complete power and lots of amazing works to look upon, but time left very little to behold. It's frightening, encouraging and fascinating all at the same time. All that from such a short poem."

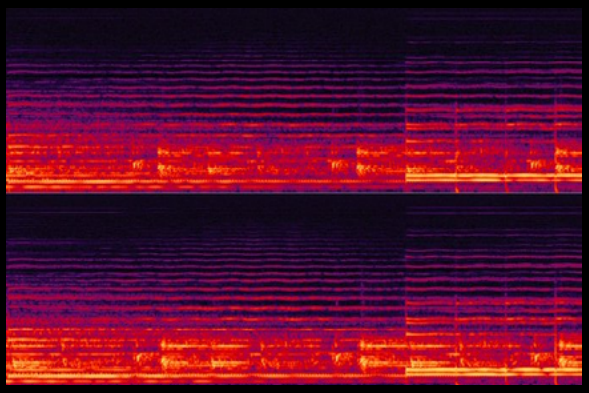
Vinny's words on the creation of "Ozymandias"

"I had written a song on synthesizer that sounds vaguely Egyptian I guess. After putting the demo together, I wasn't sure there were room for vocals at all. Joe, Red Vox's bassist and producer, liked the song and told me to give vocals a try for it and see what I could come up with." ... "I think I more or less found my voice and am more into the way I sing now, which feels way more natural and less forced."

> SOURCE (HIGHLANDER NEWS)

(6/14/20) SYNTHY SPECTROGRAM

On June 7th, Red Vox tweeted out this spectrogram,



which sounds like the linked clip below when ran through Melobytes (AI generated image to music software). Vinny clarifies in the 7/13/20 AMA, that this spectrogram was tweeted because “It just looked cool”.

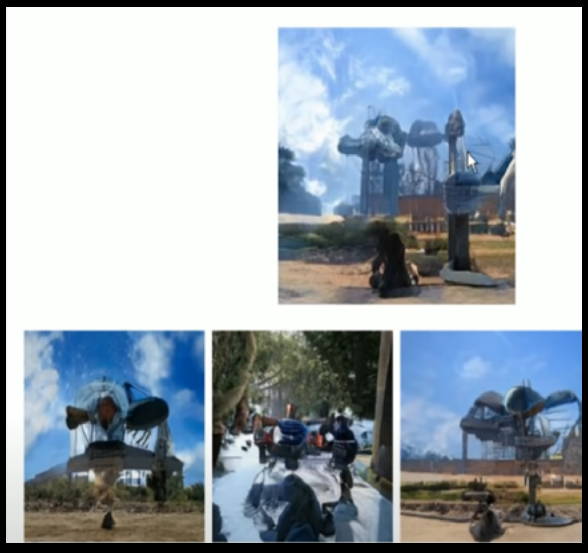
> SOURCE (TWITTER)

> SOURCE (MELOBYTES CLIP)

(6/25/20) REALIGN’S COVER ART AND GANBREEDER

The cover art for Realign (commissioned from amoralcrow) is an upscaled version of a Ganbreeder image (an artificial image generated by a GAN AI). The previous “generations” of this Ganbreeder image also feature a shadowy figure, which Vinny found cool.

> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)



(6/25/20) THE CURSE OF REALIGN (TITLE TRACK)

Realign was a jam song written in the studio, using Vinny's new SYNTH9 pedal. After the song was finished, Vinny showed it to a friend, who said it sounded like Nirvana's "Come As You Are." Then, Spotify's Discover Weekly played a song for Vinny called "Rearrange" with the same chords (G Emin Dmin, also Realign is in the key of G). The final part of Realign's curse of sounding like other songs came on the single's release date, when people brought to Vinny's attention that the melody line is very similar to his own solo song, "Walking Illusion."

> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)

(6/25/20) BONEY MARONEY

The Red Room Studios skeleton featured in the Realign music video is named "Boney Maroney".

> SOURCE (YOUTUBE)

(7/9/20) REALIGN PREMIERE AND Q & A

On July 9th at 10 PM EST, the premiere of Realign was streamed on the redvoxband Twitch channel.

> SOURCE FOR ALL FOLLOWING INFO

Joe's Contributions

The outro solo to Anesthesia was performed by Joe, as confirmed by Vinny in the stream chat. Joe also performed the Return the Call and Ozymandias solos, as well as the rhythm guitar at the end of Reeling From The Rafters.

Bill's Contributions

"Any of the classic synths - like the Fender Rhodes, the mellotrons, was the stuff that I contributed." Much of the dreamy and Floydian keyboard work on the album can probably be attributed to Bill, including the mellotron on Pale Blue Dot and the riff from Be Someone Forever.

Mike's Contributions

Realign's style called for simpler, more "dancey" beats, so Mike's drumwork is heavily edited. Although his involvement on the album is much less than that of previous albums, Mike is on tracks 1-8 and 14, sometimes playing alongside a drum machine. Tracks 9-13 are solely drum machine (XLN Audio's "Addictive Drums"). In contrast to the other drum machine tracks, the Nick Mason inspired drums of "Anesthesia" sound close to real.

Jam Songs
Be Someone Forever was born out of a post-Stranded jam, where Bill developed the riff of the song. Similarly, Reeling From The Rafters was also created in a jam after Stranded, in which Joe's bassline was built upon by Vinny's "circus-y" SYNTH9 pedal melody.

Better On The Outside's Original Name
Better On The Outside was originally called "Pond Runner", according to Vinny. The name is perhaps a reference to the Vangelis-like (Blade Runner composer) synths on the track, as well as psychedelic rock group Pond, a common source of inspiration for Vinny.

(7/10/20) SONEMIC INTERVIEW

MarilynRoxie, a community manager for Sonemic, (part of RateYourMusic) interviewed Vinny on the release of Realign, here are some highlights.

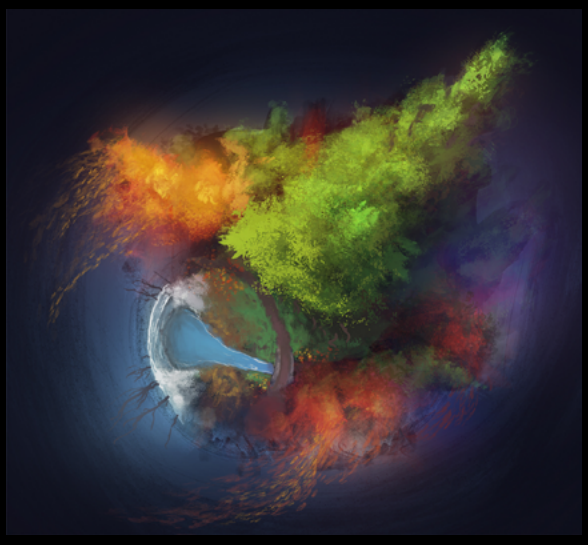
On album process
"I made demos in FLStudio that were transferred over to ProTools and fleshed out properly by Joe, Mike, Bill and myself. A couple were born of full band jams, but on the whole, the music seems to have emerged from some introverted, subconscious place." ... "Lyrically, the album covers both the internal and external. I try to use music as a way to figure things out about myself and the world around me." ... "I wrote most of the words to Realign in the summer of 2019 over a series of very long walks. It's a good way to clear the head and avoid electronic distractions."

On the bonus tracks
"One bonus track was cut from the album as we couldn't figure out how to make it work with everything else. It's vaguely in line with the tone of the rest of the album, but has its own flavor too. The second bonus track is much lighter and is mostly acoustic. It was something I wrote during quarantine while work on the album had frustratingly come to a halt."
> SOURCE (SONEMIC)

7/10/20 SCRAPPED REALIGN ART

On Realign's release date, Amoralcrow (who was commissioned for the album cover and Ozymandias's art) shared some art that did not make it in.

> SOURCE (TWITTER)



(7/13/20) REALIGN AMA

>SOURCE FOR ALL FOLLOWING INFO

Ozy's New Outro and Transitions

Ozymandias's album version includes a new outro that "sums up a feeling of dread that ends side one before Far Away sort of resets that." On the album's transitions, he said, "The song transitions usually happen afterwards, and if they sound good next to each other, we'll go for it. Some like the end of Ozymandias in the end of better on the outside were planned in advance. That's usually not the case though."

Realign Songwriting Timeline

When asked about how long the album took to make, from the first songs until now, Vinny said "Some of these songs were demoed and written just after another light was finished. Otherwise it's hard to remember or say for sure."
Elsewhere, he said, "The album was almost completely done recording before Covid hit. Mixing was mostly what was left aside from some decisions we made about percussion."

Realign's Theme & Title

"There's loose connection. The first half of the album I think deals with more internal struggles for example. The main theme is obviously what we named the album, but there's also a couple of other minor themes like forced change throughout the album. That said I don't think it's really a concept album."
Elsewhere, he said, "Trying to find my place in the world as someone who frequently feels lost, and then maybe taking that a bit further back. Pale blue dot is kind of reflection of why I love thinking about space and the universe since I was a kid"
On the title's origin, he said, "I don't really even remember to be honest. Maybe just a feeling that I had or something I wanted for myself"

Vinny's Personal Favorites On Realign

"Pale Blue Dot, Return The Call, but even though I'm sick of listening to the songs, I'm happy with all of them in various ways."

On Closer Now and I Don't Mean to Complain

Q: "Hey Vinny, I remember some time ago you did a scum stream where you were working on the thing that became the transition from Better On the Outside to Closer Now. Would streaming more of the "messing around in FL Studio" process you've talked about be something you'd consider? I understand though if that's something you'd rather keep private, but it would be cool to see more."

VINNY: "Good memory. Truth is I was bored and I figured if I was alive I could force myself to write a song. I also came up with the beginnings of I don't mean to complain in a similar fashion"

Three Cut Songs From Realign

On songs that were cut for not fitting the album, Vinny said "I'd say at least three songs outside of the two bonus tracks were considered for this album."

Waveform on WCGW Cover

When asked about the waveform on the bottom right of What Could Go Wrong's cover art, Vinny said "That's a secret." It has been assumed that he forgot what it was.

On the Conception of Ozymandias

"I was just messing around with synthesizer sounds and came up with an instrumental that sounded vaguely Egyptian. I named it Ozymandias without thinking too much about it. Months later Joe challenge me to write a vocal Melody and lyrics to it and the end result is what you hear now I guess"

(10/4/20) THE SOUND OF LP5

In response to a discussion about the general sound of the fifth Red Vox album, Vinny said that "Grunge might be a little limited of a descriptor and I don't think we're gonna tie ourselves to that style as that's not entirely who I am or want to be. There will be influence for sure, but I'd describe the next batch of songs as rock. Loud guitars will be there for example. That said, it'll also maybe have some Queens of the Stone Age and Television influence, but who knows, things always change and evolve during the writing and recording process."

> SOURCE (REDDIT)